

2004 Sea Urchin Summit

Ellsworth Middle School

April 3, 2004

Final Report
flip chart notes and proceedings

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Summit goal:

To allow creative thinking and new approaches to urchin management to come forward from industry, scientists and regulators.

Sample of full group comments: during Maggie's presentation and discussion with DMR Commissioner George Lapointe

- The fishery will self regulate and close itself when it gets bad enough
- The scientists are wrong, I see a recovery
- I made more money this year than ever
- Down east is doing great
- Put more scientists on our boats
- We need at least 64 to 70 days
- Once you close it, it will never reopen

Short Term Tools List - Maggie Hunter

- Season
- Gear
- Catch limits
- Size limits
- Closed areas
- Spawning closures
- Limited entry

Small group <u>discussions</u> on short term proposals

Group 1 Sherm Hoyt facilitator – divers and draggers, mainly zone 2, Cobscook group, Jonesport area group (NE)

Short term concerns and ideas:

- 64 days
- Go to the legislature to get 94 days
- Balance biomass and industry needs for livelihood
- Days at sea could be used to adapt to a short season
- Increase the minimum size to 21/8 – will not be acceptable in Cobscook
- Kevin Rogers proposal – tote limits, daily, season – refer to written plan
- Larger dragger escape panel

- 3 year trial for any plan before changing
 - Do nothing
 - Require more careful handling of totes to give better product to buyers
 - Make it easier for dealers to get started – lower dealers license fee
 - Area management
 - Reseeding and closed areas – address legal issues and research needs now
 - Spawning closures
 - Flexible season
 - Support zone 1 with 40 days
 - Eliminate September
 - Buyers might survive on 50 days
 - Fishermen organize into groups to work with buyers
 - Establish “triggers” to decide when to change management
 - 60 - 64 days with no tote limits – big majority
 - ❑ 94 days with tote limits – 5 totes per day – minority
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Group 2 – Dana Morse facilitator, mixed group (SE)

Short term concerns and ideas:

- State provide unemployment for displaced fishermen
 - Hire a lawyer
 - Commissioner needs to be part of the process – should be here today - everyone agrees
 - Fishery is improving
 - Hard to speak up – may be unknown consequences
 - Get better numbers for landings and stock assessment – urchins are recovering
 - More drag surveying – work with the fleet – sea sampling
 - Research money should be generated from license fees – get fleet involved more in research
 - Keep same zones
 - No switching zones
 - Don't close part of a zone
 - No gear changes
 - Keep same measure
 - Urchins are recovering
 - Use conservation work to add days
 - Give a plan 2-3 years to work
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Group 3 – Ted Hoskins facilitator – mostly Zone 1 (SW)

Short term concerns and ideas

- 30 days with 180 tags per fisherman
- 94 days with 6 tote limit per day

- 70 days
- Reseed
- Conservation work required
- Snorkel only – no limits, 94 day season
- Close it
- No latent licenses
- Closed areas with rotation

Group 4 – Wayne Lloyd facilitator- mixed zone and gear (NW)

Short term concerns and ideas:

- 60 days - No tote limits -
- 94 days with tote limit - 6 per day
- No early or late closures
- Oct – January season
- Culling on bottom
- Allow tenders to get license
- One zone

<h2>Short Term Final Proposals</h2>

Group 1 Sherm Hoyt facilitator (NE)

Plan 1 - Downeast Plan – (see their written proposal)

Zone 1 – 40 days, open Sept 20, close Dec 29

Zone 2 – 64 days

Early: Oct. 4 – open
Feb 15 – close

We encourage culling on bottom west of Petit Manan
as an everyday practice

Late: Dec. 1 – open
April 20 - close

Shut down on Feb 15 from Bakers Island west for spawning

Plan 2 - Cobscook Plan –(see written proposal)

60 days over 4 months

Oct 1 – open

Jan 31 – close

Larger dragger escape panel required

Monday thru Friday with no fishing on holidays

Large majority of this group supported Plans 1 and 2

Cobscook group needs to discuss other tools with their home group (CFA) before agreement

Plan 3

45 day season with Days at Sea

Group 2 - Dana Morse facilitator (SE)

Downeast Plan as written – big majority support this plan

Group 3 – Ted Hoskins facilitator (SW)

Zone 1 Plan

- 70 day season
 - Close 60% to 75% of the zone – fishermen and DMR collaborate to choose areas to close – Zone council oversee this
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Group 4 – Wayne Lloyd facilitator (NW)

Plan A – 75 days with no tote limit

Plan B – 94 days with tote limit – 6-7 per day

For both:

- Also include rolling closures for spawning
- No size change
- Culling on bottom
- Closed areas – temporary
- Swipe card system

Long Term Planning

Long term Tools: list from Maggie Hunter

- Yearly individual quota
- Area quota
- DAS - pick your days
- Culling on bottom for zone 2 divers
- Change in license fees
- License - "use it or lose it" approach
- Rotational closures

- Reseeding
- Mandatory conservation service, incentives
- Local area management
- Market development of predators - crabs and starfish
- Lobstermen should not kill urchins

Small Group Long Term Discussion

Group 2 - Dana Morse facilitator (SE)

- Days at sea with weather advisory system
- Keep latent licenses
- Swipe card
- Economics should dictate management
- Flexible

Group 3 - Ted Hoskins facilitator (SW)

Zone 1 Plan

- Mandatory reseeding and
- Spat collection with grow out to 1/2 inch
- Set season relative to stock health
- Grandfather licenses - license security
- Use large protected areas

Group 4 - Wayne Lloyd facilitator (NW)

Modified Kevin Rogers plan

- Tag limits - 100 - 250 per license holder
- Tag has year and license number
- Heavy fines for violations
- Untagged urchins - \$500 License holder must be present, Buyer removes tags, Cut tags retained by buyer, buyer delivers tags to DMR
- Fines spent on reseeding
- Leave size at present measure
- Improve culling restrictions
- Same season as 2004
- Combine early and late season
- Do more seeding and relocating research
- Establish two temporary conservation areas
- Pursue swipe card technology

Flip chart notes transcribed by Sherm Hoyt
4/5/04

NE - Sherm	windows	SE - Dana
Stage		food
NW - Wayne		SW - Ted

Comments on the 2004 Summit

a. Breakout groups needed quiet space:

Future summits will use the library or other rooms in the school for breakout discussions.

b. Voting issue: Why a written ballot?

During the discussion of short term proposals one industry member commented that:

"It is hard to speak up, there may be consequences."

It is for this reason that I planned on using written ballots this year.

c. George's participation:

Although George was not on the agenda, I think his discussion with industry and scientists was the most important outcome of this year's Summit.

d. Work done by community groups before the Summit:

This year, a tremendous amount of work was done before the Summit by local groups on preparing proposals for setting next year's season.

Some who could not attend found other industry members to bring their proposals to the Summit.

My thanks to everyone.

Sherm Hoyt
4/8/04